

PERMA

PERMA is a permaculture training project based in Monze in southern Zambia. It is supported by Bridgend Quaker meeting.

In the 2014-15 and in the 2015-16 farming season, crop yields were reduced by poor rainfall. The project provides training and materials for Kampunu Community School to design a permaculture garden to grow food that will be sold to generate income, helping to reduce school fees. The garden will also provide nutritious food in the school, and improved environment and shade. The wider farming community will benefit from knowledge of permaculture methods.

So far the project has provided four days of theory and practical training to 40 teachers, children, the PTA, Headman, elders, Church and community leaders at Kampunu school. Subjects covered included: water harvesting to raise the underground water table, sharing seeds and surplus produce, composting, companion planting, mulching, natural pest control, zero tillage, dry planting, planting a tree nursery, growing traditional crops.

The next stage of the project will be to erect a fence to stop wandering cattle eating vegetables and fruit trees. A further two days training are planned in January 2017 followed by twice yearly visits. The grant will also be used to buy gardening equipment for the school (a wheelbarrow, picks, hoes, buckets, etc.) as well as fruit trees and seeds.

The long term plan is to train local people as permaculture trainers. Already four schools in the Monze area have had permaculture design training. It is hoped that as the number of local trainers grows, these ideas and information will spread.

